

WHAT

As a theater maker I'm used to take a (social) conflict as a starting point. A thread through my work seems to be that the conflict which inspires my work over the last year can be reduced to a conflict which occurs when we try to incorporate the mechanical into the natural. I will illustrate this with examples in the presentation.

WHY

The ultimate integration of machine with (human) nature would be the use of cyborg technology that enhances our capabilities as humans. I'm skeptical about this scenario because I see no gain in it for me. During my bachelor I have learned to control the goose bump feeling. I experience this feeling as very positive and I'm not the only one who can control it (see appendix A). People often get the goose bump feeling when listening to beautiful music or perceiving text that is considered to be profound in some way, but I'm sure there are more things that trigger it.

Let's now imagine a cyborg technology that promises to increase this functionality. Because people experience this feeling in so many degrees there is no guarantee that the scientists who made this technology were at the same level as I am when they tested it. This means that the technology can increase **or decrease** my capability to the level of the scientists. It's also not unimaginable that such technology would fix the level of goose bumps, making "growth" of this feeling impossible. Since I'm already quite content with what I can do now and want to discover my limits I would never take the risk of buying this technology and applying it on myself. And even if a lesser cyborg technology offers boosting of another capability I would have to be pressed hard to use it, because I can get the goose bump feeling on every part of my body. Thus the change that such technology would make will interfere with this state of being that I prefer is not slim.

In general I think it's dangerous to try to improve what we don't understand. It's widely accepted in the scientific community that we don't understand the spontaneous occurrence of form called morphogenesis seen in organic development. I would always be reluctant to change anything that may harm an organic phenomenon. Since the ultimate application of mechanics in nature is failing in my eyes already I want to be sure that we (as a society) are aware of any drawbacks our current and future technological breakthroughs may have which will be less superior for sure. This awareness may arise if the audience is confronted on many levels with the conflicts that occur when mechanics meet nature.

HOW

In the first trimester I imagined a project that consisted of the following subworks:

- a viral music video (meant to draw attention)
- a website with a contest on it (to engage the audience)
- the same price (a piece of hardware) for a few participants
- a workshop where people could make the hardware themselves
- a website that connects the hardware and enables a "internet labor union"

I really like this idea of working in multiple context and media. It adds to the experience and value of the work and it gives me the opportunity to work on video and programming skills instead of limiting me to performances the entire year. Therefore I would like to set up something similar.

QUESTIONS

- do you see any possibility for artworks that are multi interpretable in the ideas I presented?
- do you have reading suggestions apart from the books listed in appendix B?
- do you think a trans-medial project is too ambitious?
- should I refer to the goose bump feeling or is this just a personal inspiration?
- I presented more than one idea, any favorites?

APPENDIX A

PLEASE READ WITH A GRAIN OF SALT IT'S HARD TO GIVE WORDS TO FEELINGS

<http://www.seekingwholeness.com/guided-imagery-hypnosis/tingling-goosebumps-life-energy/comment-page-2>

What is that tingling, electric, goosebumps-y sensation that some experience?

In this blog entry I talk about my experience with this sensation. This is not a new sensation but I recently experienced it in abundance.

Throughout my life I had felt tingling waves that went inside of my body and spread on the surface of my skin while meditating or praying, especially when in deep relaxation or concentration. When this sensation is on the surface it is accompanied by goose bumps that swarm the skin and traverse the body in waves. When inside the body, this sensation is like a cloud of charged tingling particles. I found it possible to direct this cloud of sensation with concentration. Does this sound familiar?

In the Past:

I felt this sensation for a very long time, ever since I was a teenager (when I used to experiment with unguided meditation accompanied by Christian prayer). I remember directing this sensation towards spots in my body that were in need of healing on some occasions.

As a teenager, with little knowledge or direction, I discovered this 'sensation' on my own; it was not intense though; I had an inkling that it was a healing force. However, I always doubted and questioned everything that could not be measured scientifically; as it is, even after I read that this sensation was known as the 'life force' I was never a 100% sure that it was. I always exclaimed that feeling something doesn't make it exist in a physical reality.

Recently

While at my [first physical therapy session](#), I did 20 minutes of guided imagery meditation (Used: [Relaxation & Wellness by Belleruth Naparstek](#) – purchased from Health Journeys). This tingling feeling got generated inside of me with each deep breath, I was not expecting it; I was a little surprised when I felt this sensation. However it manifested in me and was more intense than I had ever experienced before. I also enjoyed this feeling because I felt a sense of relief and familiarity, it felt very well.

Interestingly, this sensation lasted even after the session was over; as I took in a deep breath it would increase and seemingly circumvent my body. It slowly dissipated as I got distracted by life.

What is This Sensation?

This is the life energy or the life force that manifests inside of every person. Some have never felt it, in fact they just are not aware of its presence. Every person is capable of feeling and amplifying this sensation.

Scientific Proof of Life Force

Let's keep this simple and clear. As of today:

- The Sensation: I cannot say this sensation is anything else but a sensation. Sensations like smell, sight and touch actually exist in the brain. Every person's brain interprets senses differently. Every smell or image you see are actually interpreted electrical pulses in your brain. Human sensations are not accurate measure nor are they a scientific proof of the existence of something.

We got to measure this sensation with equipment in order to proof its existence scientifically. I do not have such tools.

- The energy: I cannot prove this sensation is a measurable energy, whether it is static electricity, human cell electricity, cold electricity, life energy, the holy ghost or anything other kind of energy. I lack the tools needed for a measurement.

I can sense these things, every scientific observation is a result of sensing whether it is seeing, smelling, reading results off a monitor, we rely on senses all the time even in science.

What I Can Proof

- I know that this sensation relaxes me, refreshes me, and clears my mind
- I know that experiencing this sensation dissipates my migraine headaches
- I can feel my headache disappearing
- I can see goosebumps on my skin

In summary, I know that this is a sensation that I can feel, I know it works for me and reliefs my headaches, so I can argue that it is real to me and delivers real outcome.

Have you Ever Felt this Sensation?

How did it feel to you, was it electric, tingling, goosebumps, cold, warm??

If you haven't that is fine.. In my future articles I will show you how easy it is to be aware of this life energy inside of you.

Ethan Z

APPENDIX B

“Notworking” Geoff Cox

“You're not a gadget” Jaron Lanier

“The Net Delusion” Evgeny Morozov

“War of the Worlds” Mark Slouka

“Becoming virtual” Pierre Levy

“The Emergence of Probability” Ian Hacking

“Godel Escher Bach” Douglas Hofstadter